



The BANNOCKBURN *Back 9*

Published by the Bannockburn Civic Association since 1953

April 2026

Newcomers' Dinner

By Mike Zangwill

On Saturday, March 7th, the Bannockburn Community welcomed our newest arrivals to the neighborhood. The newcomers were introduced to life in Bannockburn. They enjoyed a free potluck dinner provided by the oldtimers, an orientation from organization leaders, songs from the Spring Show, and a perfect opportunity to meet their neighbors. This annual event showcases our Bannockburn community spirit.

We recognize the Bannockburn Community Club for hosting the event and all the volunteers and organization leaders who helped make this event so special. I took photos of some of the newcomers who attended in case you were curious about who they are.



*Henriette Rahusen,
Master of Ceremonies.*

*Terri and Aaron Payne
lead the crowd in
singing "Second Hand
Houses," a perennial
favorite.*



*Diana and Antoine Boo, Ken-
howe Drive.*



*Katie and Mike Stephens, Bannock-
burn Drive.*



John Scheffler, Barr Road.



*Saylee Motwani, East Halbert
Road.*



*Brent and Alexa Kaye and family,
Bannockburn Drive.*



*Kelsey and Jamie Lee Schroed-
er, Rannoch Road.*

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Beth Rogers, Newcomers' Greeter
At Large: Nancy Roche, Laura Chavez, Brian Moore,
Ross Hurt, Emily Shaw
Katy Levine and David Hecht, Woodlands Stewards

Back9 Production Team

Beth Rogers – Writer/Editor
Mike Zangwill – Design/Layout

Back9 Contributors

Alix Harou
Randall Ingate
Keith Parsky (as DJT)
Phil Satlof
Karen Severy
Mike Zangwill

Mark Your Calendar *

April 24-26, May 1-2 – Bannockburn Spring Show '70.

Tickets go on sale April 5th. Please check www.bannockburncommunity.org for more information.

Sat 4/25 – Earth Day Native Fish Release at Lock 10, 4 PM. Help the Potomac River recover from the recent environmental disaster. Participate in a hands-on release of bluegills and minnows, licensed and permitted by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for the purpose of sewage spill restoration. Meet at the river's edge. For more information, contact Kevin Kearney, lotusman1951@gmail.com.

* Events in bold held at the Clubhouse.

The Bannockburn Civic Association (BCA) has published our neighborhood's newsletter since 1953. *The Back9* is published monthly September through June and currently reaches almost 600 households. To make sure you receive a copy of this newsletter, visit <http://bannockburncommunity.org/newsletter/>.

Interested in submitting an article or running an advertisement? Please email contact-bca@bannockburncommunity.org.

The opinions presented in *The Back9* are the authors' own. The BCA Board neither verifies nor endorses the contents of this community newsletter. While the editors make every effort to ensure published dates, times, and other information are correct and current, errors may occur; the editorial staff, authors, and the BCA Board are not liable for any damages that may result from readers' reliance on the information published in good faith herein.

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BCA Board Meeting, March 10th

By Randall Ingate, BCA Board Secretary

The Bannockburn Civic Association (BCA) Board met on March 10th. In attendance were Mike Zangwill, Beth Rogers, David Hecht, Katy Levine, Nancy Forden, Patty Howie, Randall Ingate, Pam Toole, and Emily Shaw. Ross Hurt attended via telephone

Several BCA Board members attended a community meeting sponsored by DC Water at Walt Whitman High School (WWHS) on February 26th. DC Water stated that there was no further sewage discharge into the Potomac after February 8th. Community members raised concerns about the short- and long-term environmental impacts as well as seepage into a drainage channel adjacent to the spill site. DC Water continues to post updates at www.dewater.com and held a second community meeting on March 18th at WWHS. Regional environmental groups continue to monitor bacteria levels in the Potomac and have contested some of DC Water's public findings. According to findings of the Potomac Riverkeeper, sewage was still leaking through the canal bed into the drainage channel. (The annual Spring Show will incorporate themes from the sewage spill.)

On March 1st BCA sponsored a Town Hall meeting at the Bannockburn Community Clubhouse (BCC) for three candidates, Drew Morrison, Julie Yang, and Debbie Spielberg, running for Montgomery County Council District 1 as well as the four sitting Circuit Court Judges and one additional candidate for Circuit Court Judge. The event was well attended and thanks go out to Beth Rogers and Julie Rosen for organizing.

Emily Shaw requested that the Board meet with [Josie Caballero](#), who is running for an at-large position on the Montgomery County Council. It was determined that Caballero would attend the next meeting if she could make it.

The Newcomer's Dinner, held at the Clubhouse on March 7th, was attended by several BCA Board members. Community attendance was not as robust as in previous years, with only six newcomer families attending, but a quieter event, noted BCC President Terri Payne, gave the neighborhood more time to focus on the newcomers. Pictures of the event will be in the next Back Nine newsletter.

The annual Spring Show will be held at the Clubhouse April 24-26 and May 1-2. Stay tuned for ticket sales.



A townhall meeting organized by the BCA at the Clubhouse on March 1st provided a convenient way for residents to meet candidates running for Montgomery County Council, District 1. From left to right: candidate Debbie Spielberg; BCA Secretary Randall Ingate; organizers Julie Rosen and Beth Rogers; and candidates Julie Yang and Drew Morrison.

The Bannockburn Community again raised the most money (\$9K) in support of the Glen Echo fund drive but will be joined this year by the Town of Glen Echo which came in second in the friendly competition. The Day in the Park appreciation event for both communities will be held on July 19th in the early afternoon with refreshments, face painting, arts and crafts, and a tour of the Park.

Steven Solomon, BCA Treasurer, will give a report at the next BCA Board meeting.

David Hecht and Katy Levine, BCA's Woodlands Stewardship Group leads, gave a report on recent workdays. Though the snows in January and February curtailed the number of winter workdays both area pools have had invasive vine removal since the beginning of the year. Another workday was held March 15th at Bannockburn Elementary School (BES) with childcare provided.

Levine, the Merrimack Pool lead, learned that the area behind that pool is considered a wetland. She will prepare a talk for the next workday there to minimize any adverse impact from working in the area. Signage has been posted in the area about wood frogs that are found there.

Levine and Hecht have established an excellent working relationship with the forest inspector from the Maryland Park and Planning Commission since the Woodlands Stewardship Group (WSG) began work in three legally-protected forest conservation

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BCA Minutes *from page 3*

easements in the Bannockburn area. The forest inspector has referred to the WSG as a pilot program that may serve as a model for other groups.

Tree Montgomery is granting 18 trees to be planted on the BES schoolgrounds, probably in early spring. Six of the trees will be oaks and the remainder a mixture of native trees. The BES PTA is committed to watering the trees during the summer. Levine and Hecht also met with a representative from the Wyngate community, located off of Old Georgetown Road, who has been very proactive in her community and facilitated the planting of street trees in her neighborhood. Bannockburn has lost much of its tree canopy and some residents have been asking for more street trees.

Hecht reported that there has not been any follow-up from Montgomery County regarding the issue with missing sealant on the new sidewalk on Kenhowe Drive. Hecht also asked that BCA funds be used to clear snow on County sidewalks that abut County property not attached to any Bannockburn

homeowners (who would therefore be responsible for clearing the snow in a timely manner). The Board voted to reimburse Hecht who personally paid brothers Liam and James Kress of Brigadoon Drive to shovel a stretch of sidewalk on Kenhowe Drive near Pye Road so that kids could safely walk to school.

Rogers brought up watering and maintaining the community garden at the corner of Bannockburn Drive and MacArthur Boulevard. BCA will continue to hire a gardener to care for the garden every other week in season.

Rogers usually organizes a Potomac River watershed cleanup around the American Legion Bridge. The event will not be held this year due to all the staging equipment from DC Water to handle sewage remediation, but there may be other cleanup events held in the area.

The next BCA Board meeting will be held on April 7th.

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Get to Know the Spring Show Band: Music Director, Fred Vinson

By Phil Satlof

Fred Vinson is the honored, venerable, and multi-talented band leader for the Spring Show Band. He sings, plays piano and guitar, but, most importantly, helps the band and the entire cast to work out arrangements to the songs, pick a key that will work and generally figure out how to perform a song so it entertains and delights.

Bassist Phil Satlof cornered him during a recent Spring Show rehearsal and found out some fascinating facts.



Fred Vinson at Spring Show rehearsal.

PS: Where are you from?

FV: I was born in Washington, DC. Eventually we moved to just over the line in Westmoreland Hills in Bethesda. My grandfather was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court [Frederick Moore Vinson] from 1946 to 1953. He came from a tiny town in Appalachia and died right in the middle of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Where did you go to school?

I went to Westbrook Elementary, which is still going. And then I went to Western Junior High, which is now Westfield Middle School. I did so poorly there that my parents moved me to St. Albans after one year. For college, I went to the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill like our director [Eric Nichols]. I got a BA in philosophy.

How did you get started in music?

It must have been the summer after third grade at Westbrook Elementary. They had piano lessons where they gave us a board that was carved into the contours of a piano and they us practice on the "keys" because there was only one actual piano to use. But they also each week did a scale. And so I learned like the one, four, and five chord of all 12 notes which was helpful in my second year of seventh grade.

At St. Albans, in seventh grade, some of my classmates had a little band. Two of them played guitar, and one of them played drums because his dad was a drummer and had a full set of drums and all. And

so, of course, we always played in his basement. And I rented a little cheesy electric organ and then I bought a Farfisa combo compact. Which basically is like all the tones of the really cheesy sound... think of "96 Tears" from ? and the Mysterians. And the thing weighed like 80 pounds. I swear, it was so heavy. I played with this group for several years. We had a little party, in eighth grade I think, in a friend's basement and had some of our friends over, including girls, and my mother came early to pick me up. And she stood at the top of the basement stairs and called out, "Freddie, Pack up your organ. We have to go now." So I got teased about that for years.

Did you also play through high school?

Through high school, I played with various people. We had a little band. We played like one gig at the Indonesian Embassy, because our drummer was the son of the ambassador. Which was very cool because they had great food and cool drinks. We had a totally different sort of arrangement of people by then and this one guitar player went on to go to the Berkeley College of Music. He graduated and has been a professional jazz musician ever since: [Joel Harrison](#).

How about college?

When I first moved into my room, freshman year, I was playing my guitar and heard someone right above me playing his guitar back. I went up and introduced myself and we started playing together.

What were you playing?

It was probably either Grateful Dead or Doobie Brothers. I was living on the ninth floor of a ten-story dormitory and there was one time, my first year in college, I was playing a Doobie Brothers song and got a complaint that I was playing too loud from the *second floor*. Ninth floor to the second floor. Very

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Phil Satlof and Fred Vinson

fun. But in college I didn't really play with any sort of organized band.

What did you do after college for a career?

After college, I became a computer-geek-doing-software guy. I did that for a long time, and I was getting bored of it and thought it was stupid when, in my mid to late 30s, I decided to go to law school. I felt like I had a genetic imperative to practice law as my grandfather, father, and sister were all lawyers.

You graduated law school when you were 40.

Yeah, at 40. In 1995.

Did you have a family at this point by then?

Oh, yeah. I had two kids all right. I had two kids, which I still have. I went to law school at night, so it took me four years. But second year of law school, I saw a sign looking for band members to play with the student show, "The Law Revue." The Law Revue wrote parody songs making fun of law, and students and teachers, sort of like the Bannockburn Spring Show except that every song was completely redone into something related to being in law school.

They were looking for one more person to fill in on a couple of guitar bits and a couple of keyboard bits and stuff. And I thought, "Oh man, that would be so fun." So they tried out a bunch of people,

including a bunch of people their age. I was older, but I could play all the instruments.

What law school was this, by the way?

The National Law Center at George Washington University. And so I had the best time. But then, that year, all the rest of the band graduated. So the next year, it's third year of four of law school for me. And there was no band, but I was in a class one day and this guy said, "You're still here. We need a band director." So I put up a couple of pathetic posters asking people to please join my band. You know: "It's really fun, I promise, because we play in Lisner Auditorium with a professional sound system and everything, and we're down the pit and it's totally cool." And so I had no idea what I was going to get then and I got one woman who played clarinet fairly well which turned out to be hysterical for some songs.

Where these cover songs, pop songs, rock songs?

Yeah. And the drummer was the first drummer for Poison. The big hair band from the 80s. From Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. So he was really amazing. And

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Spring momentum is building in Bannockburn, and some of the best opportunities are happening off-market. I currently have access to an exclusive home in the neighborhood—reach out for early insight. As your neighbor and Bannockburn specialist, I'm here to help you navigate every advantage. #kaulme

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the guitar player had never played guitar out in public before, but he had a master's in electrical engineering from MIT and had all of this equipment and he was amazing. We had another guitar player who was very good. And a bass player, who was also spectacular, who graduated from law school and a few years later became a priest.

OK, so you did a "Bohemian Rhapsody" parody song with your law school band at Lisner Auditorium?

We did [Queen's] "Bohemian Rhapsody," rewritten as a song about someone being sentenced to death. There was a criminal law professor who had a life-size model of an electric chair that was part of the staging of this and it was amazing. I mean, we nailed it.

And then presumably, you practiced law for a while?

No, I never practiced law.

What, really?

But I did do the Law Revue Band for one more year, my fourth year. The band members weren't quite like the drummer for Poison. At one point, they asked me, "So how are we compared to last year's band?" I answered, "Do you want my legal opinion? You don't want that."

So after law school, what did you do for a career?

Computers and computer software systems.

So you did computers before law school and after law school?



Yes, even though I had been doing it for years, and I was getting really bored with it because I was a contractor and had to go in and do like the same report over and over.

What kind of language were you programming in? Like, Cobol?

Yes, for years, decades. Cobol for hours. And so then I got my law degree and right after like the last semester, I got a clerkship with this little FCC practice which was the most boring thing I've ever done in my life. It was like a mom-and-pop shop where they would get licenses for analog antennas in random place – your grandmother's backyard, you know. But also at the very end of that last semester, I got a call from a company that I had interviewed with a year before. Someone called and said, "This guy wants to interview you for this position. Can he talk to you tomorrow morning, Saturday morning, at like 6 AM?" Because he was flying in from somewhere, Sweden or something. I was like "sure." And we talked a couple hours about doing this coordinated tech support thing, which sounded really important. And when he gets the end of all of that, he says, "Well, what do you think?" And I said, "That

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sounds really boring." And he said, "Well, you know, we would want you and your family to move overseas for a year or two." And I said, "Now it sounds really interesting." So we ended up living overseas for four years. We lived in the Netherlands for four years, and I worked there and in Stockholm. The project was creating billing systems for the coming telephonies in Europe. Billing systems at least back then were amazingly complicated and expensive.

So how did you get involved with the Spring Show?

A former neighbor of mine from down the street in AU Park, Brad Kelly [Spring Show lead writer], bought a house in Bannockburn. And he saw the Spring Show a couple times, then he started really getting involved with it because he is like one of the most creative people I've ever met in my life. He talked to me about it. I came and saw the Show one time and really liked it. And then I learned that they were looking for a band leader.

Did you remember how long ago that was?

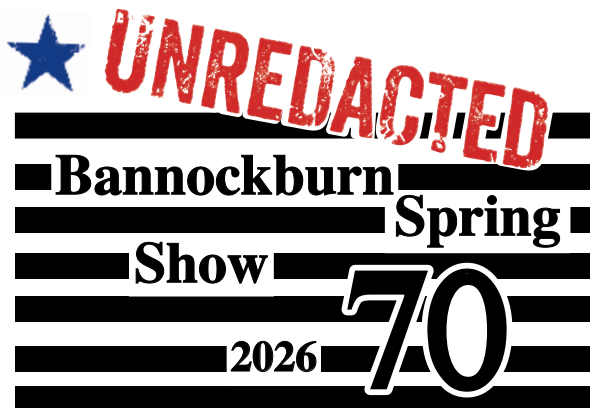
That was about 13 years ago. So, Brad pitched me. He said, "I know this guy. He did the exact same thing when he was in law school." And they offered me the gig. I've been doing it except during Covid and one year I took off to bicycle from Amsterdam to Paris.

And the last question is, what do you like most about the spring show?

Oh, my God. It's just everything. It's playing music, and everyone's having so much fun and I just love the whole community spirit. I came once or twice to the newcomers' dinner to play the piano while a few people sing songs from past shows. It's really amazing.

Satlof, of Braeburn Place, is the Spring Show Band's bass player.

Spring Show 70 Tickets on Sale April 5



April 24-26 & May 1, 2
Bannockburn Clubhouse
6314 Bannockburn Drive • Bethesda, MD
Tickets available online:
www.bannockburncommunity.org

The *Back9* received this unsolicited, editorial from [REDACTED] who became delusional after years of playing characters in the Bannockburn Spring Show:

IN FURTHERANCE OF Building Unity in this community, I, Donald J. Trump, declare WAR on the Biden Bannockburn Country Club known as the BBC for lying about the 45/47th President for years, and for refusing to rename the Bannockburn Spring Show to the Trump Bannockburn Spring Show (TuBBSS)

But, THEREFORE and nevertheless, our country clubs are respected like never before, gas prices are way down, everything is MAGAnificent, and I am hereby, FORTHWITH, nationalizing this show and closing it down for renovation.

I have signed an Excretive Odor prohibiting all people from buying tickets to any Bannockburn Spring Show which go on sale April 5th.

Fondling yours,
DJT

Bannockburn in Exile

From Bannockburn to Dubai: Staying Connected Across the Miles

By Alix Harou

In January 2025, my professional world shifted overnight. As an independent consultant in the international development sector, I lost all four of my contracts within days. After more than 20 years working in global health and development (much of it in the DC area with both NGOs and private firms), the sudden dismantling of USAID had far-reaching consequences. It impacted not only my family's livelihood, but also thousands of professionals across the DMV and tens of thousands globally who had dedicated their careers to serving vulnerable communities.

Amid this uncertainty, our family made a major decision. My husband was offered a compelling opportunity abroad, and we felt this might be the right moment to step into something new. Leaving Bannockburn, and the United States, was not easy. It was especially difficult for our teenage daughter, who was just about to start at Walt Whitman High



Former Bannockburnians Alix Harou (left) and Karen Severy meet in Dubai.

Bannockburn Community Club (BCC)

The BCC is the 501(c)(3) organization that manages the clubhouse and grounds on behalf of the BCI. As a result of this designation, any donations to BCC are tax deductible to the full extent allowable by law.

BCC promotes, supports, and sponsors educational and cultural activities at the Bannockburn Community Clubhouse, including a nursery school, a children's summer camp, theater (including the Spring Show), art, music, dance, forums, lectures, and discussion groups.

Membership:

Area residents, former area residents, and friends of Bannockburn.

Annual Dues:

Set by elected Board of Directors (currently \$250 for sponsors, \$50 for families and \$35 for single heads of households).

President: Terri Payne

Vice President: Brenda Hanning

Treasurer: Greg Sherrard

Secretary: Cris Weals

Contact: contact-bcc@bannockburncommunity.org

School, following in the footsteps of her older siblings and feeling truly at home there.

In July 2025, we packed up our lives, rented out our home, said goodbye to dear friends, and moved to Dubai. Adjusting to life in Dubai has been both exciting and disorienting. In many ways, it feels like the opposite of Bannockburn: a fast-paced desert city, vibrant and ever-growing, with a dynamic international community. Yet, despite the contrast, we found our footing more quickly than expected. Thanks to Bannockburn connections, like Terri Payne [Benalder Drive], I was introduced to an American woman Terri had been to college with who has been living in Dubai for 17 years, which helped ease our transition.

Our daughter quickly made friends, joined a soccer club, and even earned a spot on her varsity team. Slowly, Dubai began to feel like home. Still, I often found myself missing the greenery of Bethesda, especially my garden on Callander Drive. Despite the distance, we've stayed closely connected to our Bannockburn community. From sharing travel stories with Beth Rogers (who later visited Oman, as we had), to people like Tanya Sisler [formerly of East Halbert Road] introducing me to her friend Karen

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Severy [formerly of Wagner Lane], who was passing through Dubai, these relationships continue to anchor us.

Recently, however, life took another unexpected turn. At the end of February, tensions in the Middle East escalated rapidly. While enjoying a peaceful weekend, we heard loud explosions and quickly realized that the UAE was under threat. It was a surreal and unsettling experience, witnessing drones intercepted in the distance and seeing debris fall in parts of the city.

It has now been several weeks of ongoing tensions. Many friends and family have asked why we haven't left. The truth is, living through something like this feels very different from watching it unfold from afar. Despite the situation, Dubai remains highly secure, and we continue to feel safe. The most unsettling moments have been the emergency alerts prompting us to take shelter, though these have decreased in recent days.

We know we can leave at any time, but for now, we are choosing to stay. We had just begun to rebuild stability. I've been fortunate to secure new consulting work, and as a family, we are slowly putting down roots here.

At the same time, Bannockburn will always be home. We look forward to returning this summer for a visit, and our daughter is especially excited to reunite with her Bannockburn friends.

For now, we want you to know that we are doing well. We are navigating uncertainty, staying grounded, and holding close the sense of community that Bannockburn has always given us, no matter the distance.

At the same time, I would be remiss not to acknowledge that the instability we are witnessing stems directly from decisions made by the current US administration, decisions that have had real consequences for families like mine and for communities around the world. While this moment is deeply unsettling, I refuse to be intimidated by it. I will continue to stand firm, to speak out, and to push forward in the face of what often feels like bullying on a global scale.

Karen Severy wrote on March 18th:

I finally got out of the Middle East! After my flight to Cyprus was cancelled several times as tensions were increasing, and the latest rescheduling wasn't until March 24th, I decided to pivot and try to go somewhere else. The Dubai airport was increasingly getting hit, and the only planes flying were UAE airlines, with Emirates having the most recent success. I booked a flight to London. At 3 AM the next morning, as I was about to leave for the airport, they cancelled the flight. I scrambled, and somehow managed to get probably the last seat on an Emirates flight to Madrid shortly thereafter.

Just after I got to the gate, a missile alert came through, and everyone had to leave their gates and go to the lowest level of the airport. After we finally boarded, another mis-

sile alert was issued, and I felt like we were sitting ducks trapped in the completely full airplane. We eventually took off, but only for a half-hour flight to Abu Dhabi to refuel. Dubai was getting hit more than Abu Dhabi, so my best guess is that they didn't want planes full of fuel hanging out at the Dubai airport that could potentially explode. Our refueling stop took 2.5 hours.

Finally, we were back in the air, and when the tracking showed us leaving Egypt and out over the Mediterranean, I breathed a huge sigh of relief. I really hadn't realized how much stress/anxiety had built up in me during my time in Dubai until it dissipated. A quick transfer through Madrid to Malaga, and I was reunited with an old friend of mine with palpable appreciation. Lesson learned — don't fly into a war zone



Meeting in Dubai during a war.

Bannockburn in Action



BCA Woodlands Stewards work group clean-up at Merrimack Pool on March 1st, led by Katy Levine (second from left).



BCA Woodlands Stewards work group at Bannockburn Elementary School, March 15th.

Bannockburn Cooperators, Inc.

Board Members 2023-2024

Juliette Searight, President
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At Large: Patty Howie, Ava Hillman, Amy Tenney
Curren, Kelly Collins Choi, Michael Schwartz

BCI owns the Clubhouse and adjoining property as well as the two properties in the Valley. BCI has an agreement with BCC (Bannockburn Community Club) to manage the Clubhouse property. It also cooperates with BCC, BCA, and NAN.

BCI has shareholders. Residents become shareholders of BCI either by transfer from the previous owner of their house or by paying a one-time \$10 fee. Shareholders can participate in major decisions regarding BCI property. If you have received a notice of eligibility or would like to check your shareholder status, please contact Patty Howie, pbhowie@verizon.net.



Members of the Bannockburn community went to Annapolis in late February to advocate for the environment. From left to right: Jack Pelmoter, Brycen Campbell, State Delegate Sarah Wolek, Sophie Levine, John Newhart, and Bob Palermo.

The Bannockburn Civic Association sponsored a Town Hall meeting at the Clubhouse for candidates running for Montgomery County Council, District 1. From left to right: Drew Morrison, Julie Yang, and Debbie Spielberg.

